

Library

ROSS AND WHITCHURCH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

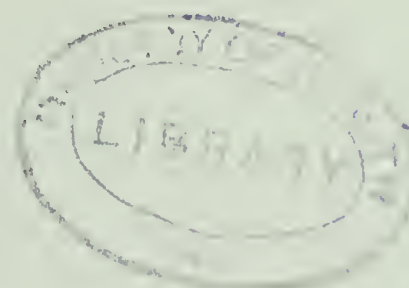
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

1955.





ROSS AND WHITCHURCH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1955, in accordance with Article 17, sub-section 5 of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations 1935, and Circular 17/55 of the Ministry of Health.

The health of the population was good throughout the year, the birth rate was maintained and the death rate was low. Infant mortality - a good guide to environmental circumstances - was very low, and no significant outbreak of infectious disease occurred.

Satisfactory progress was made in housing, and considerable progress was achieved by the Council in the provision of adequate water supplies.

I take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to Colonel N. Blake for information respecting water supplies provided by the Ross Water Undertaking, and to Mr. W.R. Whitehouse for information respecting the St. Weonards' and the Comprehensive Water Schemes.

Also, I have to acknowledge assistance most willingly given me, not only in the preparation of this Report, but in the discharge of my duties throughout the year, by my colleagues, Mr. D.H. Thomas, Clerk to the Council; Mr. G.E. Hardy, Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor; Mr. E.O. Christopher, Rating Officer.

In conclusion, I take this opportunity of placing on record my appreciation of the support which the Chairman and Members of the Council have given me during the year.

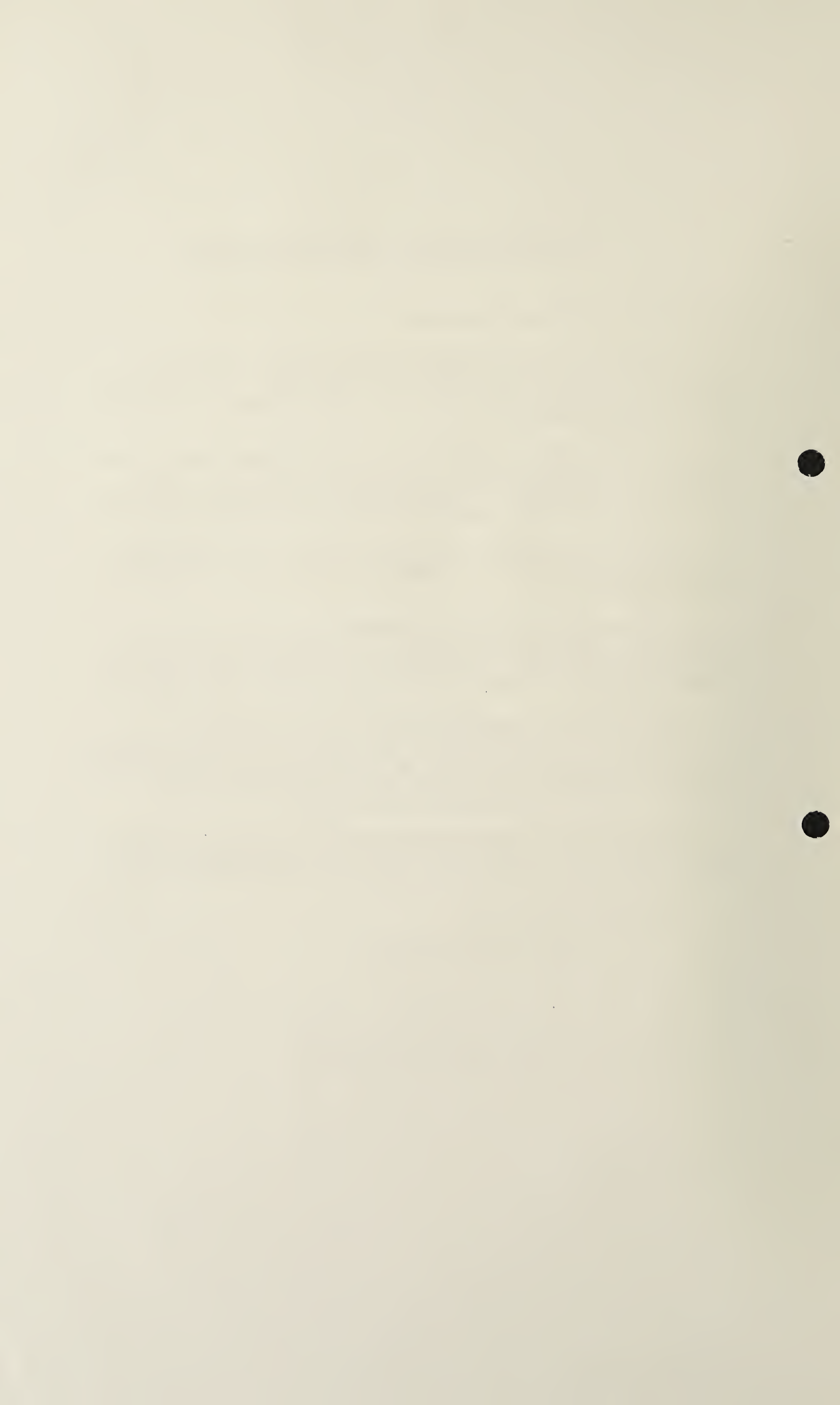
I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

*William Hogg*

Medical Officer of Health.

2nd August, 1956.



ROSS AND WHITCHURCH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

William Hogg, Hogg, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., F.R.S.I.

CLERK TO THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Miss A.O. Gale

Telephone:

Chepstow House,

Ross-on-Wye 2214

Ross-on-Wye.

SANITARY INSPECTOR, SANITARY SURVEYOR AND HOUSING  
DESIGNATED OFFICER

+ Mr. G.E. Hardy, L.R.I.B.A., A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

ADDITIONAL SANITARY INSPECTOR

+ ∅ Mr. C.W. J. Manley, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., M.R.I.P. & Hy.

+ Certificate as Inspector of Meat and other Foods.

∅ Smoke Inspector's Certificate.

ASSISTANT TO ARCHITECT AND SURVEYOR (Part-time for Public Health  
Purposes)

Mr. D.T. Preece, B.Sc., A.M.C.T., M.R.S.I., Grad.I.Str.E.

CLERK TO THE SANITARY INSPECTORS

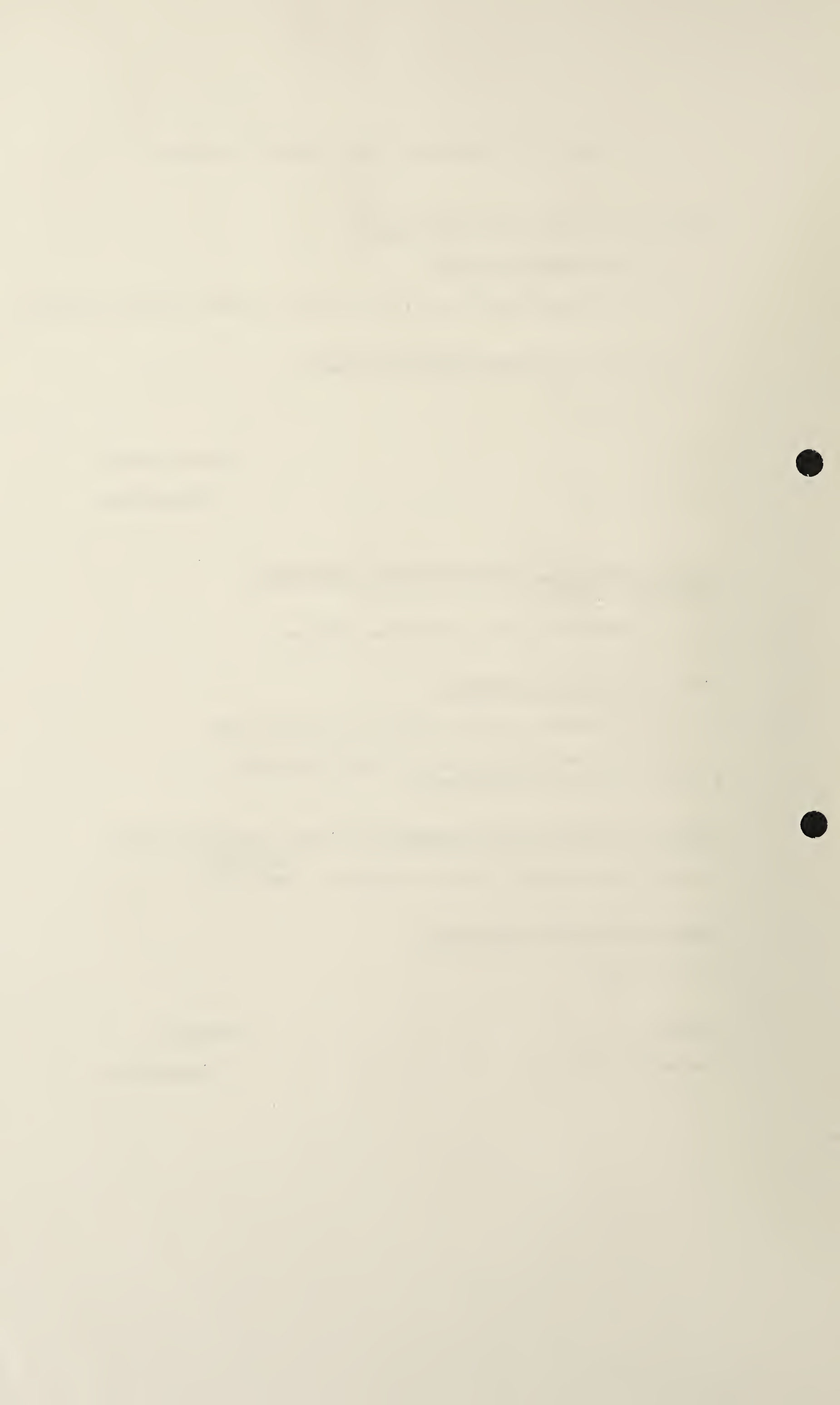
Mr. C.H. Scruby.

Telephone:-

Woodside,

Ross-on-Wye 2391

Ross-on-Wye.





MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL AND PARISHES REPRESENTED

Chairman

- Mr. B.C. Hackett, J.P.

Vice-Chairman

- Mr. L. Drayson Russill.

Mr. B.F.E.M. Stallard	...	Aston Ingham.
Mr. L. Drayson Russill	...	Ballingham.
Mr. H.E. Sainsbury	...	Brampton Abbotts.
Mr. B.C. Hackett, J.P.	...	Bridstow.
Mr. G.L. Clay, J.P.	...	Brockhampton.
Mr. G.G. Bevan	...	Foy.
Brigadier R.P. Waller	...	Ganarew
Mr. A.N. Cole	...	Garway.
Mr. A.C. Morris	...	Goodrich.
Mr. H.W. Badger	...	Harewood End and Llandinabo.
Mrs. M.J. Williamson	...	Hentland.
Mr. R.D. Margrett	...	Hope Mansell.
Major H.S. Allfrey, J.P.	...	How Caple and Sollershope.
Mr. R.J. Jenkins	...	Kings Caple.
Mr. G. Savidge	...	Lea
Mr. W. Morris	...	Linton.
Mr. J.B. Sainsbury	...	Linton.
Mr. J.F. Maclean, J.P.	...	Llangarron.
Mr. F.G. Scudamore	...	Llangarron.
Mr. J.R. Ravenhill	...	Llanrothal.
Mr. H.A. Gundy	...	Llanwarne.
Mr. G.W. Banfield	...	Marstow.
Mr. S.R. Garner	...	Pencoyd.
Mr. H.C. Teague	...	Peterstow.
Mr. H.T. Allen	...	Ross Rural.
Mr. A.C. Netting	...	Ross Rural.
Mr. J. Bowen	...	St. Weonards.
Mr. E.P.C. Whittall	...	Sellack.
Mr. T.W. Dew	...	Tretire and Michaelchurch.
Mr. A.T. Powell	...	Upton Bishop.
Mr. A.E. Thomson	...	Upton Bishop.
Mr. W. Chinn	...	Walford.
Mrs. A.E. Hill	...	Walford.
Mr. A.T. Richards	...	Welsh Bicknor.
Mr. W.R. Morgan	...	Welsh Newton.
Mr. S.W. Sharpley	...	Weston-under-Penyard.
Mr. R.F.N. Aldrich-Blake	...	Weston-under-Penyard.
Mr. H.S. Cumbley	...	Whitchurch.
Mr. J. King	...	Whitchurch.
Mr. R.F. Cotton	...	Yatton.





SECTION A - STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The Ross and Whitchurch Rural District lies in the south of the County of Hereford, surrounding the Urban District of Ross-on-Wye. The area is entirely rural in character, and the scenery of the Wye Valley attracts visitors. Limestone quarries are worked at Whitchurch and Linton. All types of farming are found within the Rural District.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year

Area in acres	...	72,105
Registrar General's estimated mid-year population	...	11,850
Number of inhabited houses (31.12.55)	...	3,638
Rateable Value	...	£45,226
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	£177
Live Birth Rate per 1000 of estimated resident population (crude)	...	14.5
Corrected live Birth Rate per 1000 of estimated population	...	16.7
Still Birth Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births	...	39.1
Death Rate per 1000 of estimated population (crude)	...	10.8
Corrected Death Rate per 1000 of estimated population	...	8.7
Area Comparability Factor (Births)	...	1.15
Area Comparability Factor (Deaths)	...	0.81

Deaths from Maternal Causes

	<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 total births.</u>
Heading No.30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.	Nil	Nil

Death Rates of Infants under One Year of Age

All Infants per 1000 live births	...	11.6
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births	...	12.2
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	...	Nil

### Population

The Registrar General's estimated mid-year population is 11,850. The natural increase in population (the excess of live births over deaths) is 44.

This population is contained in 3638 dwellings, giving an average number of persons per inhabited house of 3.26. The density of dwellings for the District is 0.05 dwellings per acre.

The largest parish is Llangarron with 5411 acres, whilst the smallest is Llandinabo with 500 acres. There are 28 parishes each exceeding 1000 acres. The parish having the largest population is Walford.

### Births

The number of live births registered as having occurred within the Rural District during the year is 172 (92 male and 80 female), and the crude live birth rate is 14.5 per 1000 of the estimated population. The area comparability factor is 1.15 and applying this to the crude birth rate, the adjusted live birth rate is 16.7 per 1000 population. The live birth rate for England and Wales for the year is 15.0 per 1000 population. The ratio of male/female live births is 1.15.

The number of illegitimate live births which occurred is 8 (4 male and 4 female). The illegitimate live births form 4.6% of the total live births. The corrected legitimate live birth rate is 15.9 per 1000 population.

### Stillbirths

Seven stillbirths occurred, (male), and the stillbirth rate is therefore 39.1 per 1000 total births.

Using the estimated population as the basis, the corrected still birth rate for the Rural District is 0.59 per 1000 population. The England and Wales stillbirth rate for the year is 23.1 per 1000 total (live and still) births.

### Deaths

The number of deaths recorded as having occurred in the District during the year is 128 (67 male and 61 female). The total is obtained after deducting the number of deaths of non-residents which occurred within the District and adding the number of deaths of residents which took place in other areas. The ratio of male/female deaths is 1.10.

The crude death rate for the District for the year is 10.8 per 1000 population, and applying the area comparability factor of 0.81, the corrected death rate is 8.7 per 1000 population. The death rate for England and Wales for the year is 11.7 per 1000 population.



Table of Causes of Death  
according to Sex and Mortality Rates

List No.	Cause of Death	Male.	Fe- male.	Per- sons.	Corrected D.R. per 1000 population.
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory.	1	2	3	0.205
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, stomach.	2	1	3	0.205
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	3	-	3	0.205
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, breast.	-	1	1	0.068
13.	Malignant Neoplasm, uterus.	-	1	1	0.068
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	7	7	14	0.956
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia.	2	-	2	0.136
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system.	12	13	25	1.708
18.	Coronary disease, angina.	8	8	16	1.093
19.	Hypertension with heart disease.	1	-	1	0.068
20.	Other heart diseases.	8	10	18	1.230
21.	Other circulatory disease.	1	2	3	0.205
23.	Pneumonia.	3	2	5	0.341
24.	Bronchitis.	3	-	3	0.205
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system.	2	-	2	0.136
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	2	-	2	0.136
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis.	-	1	1	0.068
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate.	1	-	1	0.068
31.	Congenital malformations.	-	1	1	0.068
32.	Other defined and ill defined diseases.	5	10	15	1.025
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents.	3	-	3	0.205
34.	All other Accidents.	3	2	5	0.341
All Causes		67	61	128	8.74

Analysis of deaths by cause shows that the most frequent causes are heart diseases (headings 18, 19 and 20), accounting for 35 deaths. The death rate calculated from these causes is 2.39 per 1000 population (corrected).

Vascular lesions of the nervous system accounted for 25 deaths (12 male and 13 female), and the corrected death rate from this cause is 1.70 per 1000 population.

#### Cancer Deaths

This year 22 deaths were attributed to cancer of all types (12 male and 10 female), giving a corrected death rate from cancer of all sites of 1.50 per 1000 population.

### Infant Mortality

The number of babies who died under one year of age is 2 (male). The infant mortality rate is 11.6 per 1000 live births; this rate for England and Wales is 24.9 per 1000 live births.

### Neo-Natal Mortality

All infant deaths occurred within the first four weeks of life.

### Deaths from Notifiable Infectious Disease

Five deaths were attributed to pneumonia. This was the only acute notifiable disease causing death. The corrected death rate from acute notifiable diseases is 0.34 per 1000 population.

### Tuberculosis Deaths

Three deaths were attributed to respiratory tuberculosis. The adjusted death rate from this disease is 0.21 per 1000 population and the tuberculosis death rate for England and Wales is 0.146 per 1000 population for the year.

## SECTION B - GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES OF THE AREA

### Public Health Laboratory

The facilities available to the District at the Public Health Laboratory, Hereford, remained unchanged.

The following table gives the number of investigations made on behalf of the Department during the year:-

Swabs	...	10
Sputum	...	8
Ice Cream	...	62
Milk (methylene blue test)	...	64
Water (bacteriological)	....	118
Urine	...	2
Blood	...	1
Rats	...	1
Faeces	...	30
Milk for organisms	...	2
Milk (phosphatase test)	...	29
Milk (biological)	...	17

Four samples of sewage effluent were submitted to the Public Analysts, Ellis & Turner, for chemical examination.

### Public Mortuary

The Council has facilities for reception of bodies from the Rural District at the Public Mortuary, Homs Road, Ross-on-Wye. During the year 8 bodies were admitted to the Public Mortuary from the Rural District.



### Hospitals

There are no hospitals situated within the District, which is served by hospitals at Hereford, Ross-on-Wye, Gloucester and Monmouth.

### Ambulances

Ambulances are provided in the adjacent towns of Hereford, Ross-on-Wye, Monmouth and Gloucester, for the use of persons residing within the Rural District.

### Disposal of the Dead - National Assistance Act 1948, Section 50

One burial was carried out by the Council under this section during the year.

### Care of the Aged and Infirm - National Assistance Act, 1948 Section 47

Two investigations were made under this Section; formal action was unnecessary. One case was admitted to hospital and in the other no action was necessary.

## SECTION C - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

### Geology

The District is formed of Old Red Sandstone rocks of the Devonian System, with an outcrop of limestone along the south eastern boundary from Upton Bishop to Gorsley and Aston Ingham. In the parishes of Walford and Whitchurch, along the southern boundary of the District, there is an outcrop of carboniferous limestone.

The Old Red Sandstone is represented chiefly by red and green sandstones and marl with outcrops of Old Red Conglomerate.

### Water Supplies

In the area immediately surrounding the Urban District, the mains of the Ross Water Undertaking provide a constant supply of wholesome water at adequate pressure in the parish of Ross Rural, and in parts of the parishes of Bridstow, Walford and Weston-under-Penyard.

The number of dwelling houses supplied from the Ross Water Undertaking's mains in these parishes are:-

Bridstow	...	171
Ross Rural	...	113
Walford	...	43
Weston-under-Penyard	...	5

All these supplies are by means of service pipes to the dwellings with the exception of 7 dwellings in Bridstow supplied by standpipes.

The water of the Ross Water Undertaking is obtained from boreholes at Alton Court Works. The water is of good potable quality although somewhat hard. No preliminary treatment, other than chlorination, is provided. No extensions to the Ross Water Undertaking's mains were carried out in the District during the year.

The Rural District Council has provided piped water supplies in the parishes of Brampton Abbots, Llangarron, Garway and Harewood End. These give a constant supply of potable water.

#### Brampton Abbots Supply

Brampton Abbots is supplied with water purchased in bulk from the Ross Water Undertaking. This scheme supplies 53 dwellings by services from the mains. The Reservoir capacity is 25,000 gallons in two reservoirs.

#### Garway Supply

This scheme makes use of a spring on high ground. The yield of the spring is subject to variation according to rainfall, but is adequate for present demand. The water is put into supply without treatment. The number of dwelling houses supplied by services is 81 and 3 are supplied by standpipes.

#### Llangarron Supply

This supplies part of Llangarron parish and utilises spring water pumped to the reservoir. The water is passed into supply without treatment, and is sufficient for present demands. The scheme supplies 151 dwellings by service, and 8 dwellings are supplied by standpipes.

The power for the pump is furnished by a water wheel, with a diesel set as a reserve. Flooding of the river is liable to interfere with this supply.

#### Llancloudy Supply

This is a separate scheme serving the Llancloudy area of Llangarron parish. Spring water is collected and piped to 21 dwellings. There is one standpipe on this supply. Chlorination treatment is provided.

#### Harewood End Supply

This small water scheme was purchased by the Council in 1944. The original works had a shallow well and pump driven by water wheel and auxiliary engine, but to meet increased demand a lined borehole was constructed 6" diameter to a depth of 180 feet, and a submerged electric pump provided. The original features of the scheme are retained for emergency use. The scheme supplies 32 dwellings



### Other Water Supplies

In addition to piped supplies provided by the Statutory Undertakers and the Local Authority, there are small piped schemes in the ownership of private individuals.

Many dwellings are still supplied from wells, and a number depend upon the collection of rainwater. These wells are usually of the shallow type and cannot be regarded as satisfactory sources of potable water.

During the year further progress was made with respect to the Council's Comprehensive Water Scheme. I am indebted to Mr. R. Whitehouse, Resident Engineer, for the following account of the work carried out during the year.

Before the end of the year, all work covered by Contract I was completed, the 24 inch borehole at Castlebrook being tested and capped. The greater part of the laying of trunk and distribution mains included in Contract II was carried out; at the end of the year the mains had reached the southern part of Whitchurch parish, and main laying commenced at Symonds Yat and Coppett Hill.

In November, a pleasant ceremony took place, when Major H.S. Allfrey was called upon to formally lay the foundation stone of the Castlebrook pumping station.

In addition, all excavation for the 250,000 gallon reservoir at Deepdean was completed. Work on this site will not be resumed until the Spring, when it will go forward to completion.

### St. Weonards and Llanwarne Interim Water Supply

By the end of 1955, consumers were being connected to the water mains, and the interim scheme was virtually complete apart from a considerable amount of clearing up. Kesty pumping station was brought into operation although not completed. The access bridge to Kesty was completed and except for one or two small branches, all main laying was completed.

The water tower at St. Weonards was brought into operation and after thoroughly flushing and chlorinating all reservoirs and mains, connections to consumers premises were commenced.

The large number of separate water supplies render control of potable water difficult. The number of samples submitted for bacteriological examination was 118. Of these samples, 37 showed the water not to be of potable quality.

Regular inspections and proper maintenance of Local Authority Schemes were carried out during the year. No evidence was found of any drinking water having a significant solvent action upon metals.

Springs on Welsh Newton Common failed in October, and the Council was obliged to maintain a supply of four storage tanks to meet the need of the residents in this area.



### Drainage and Sewerage

There are short public sewers within the parishes of Lea, Walford, Upton Bishop, Goodrich and Ross Rural. No extensions of public sewers were made during the year.

Four samples of sewage effluent were sent for chemical analysis and found to be satisfactory.

During the year the Sanitary Inspectors made 101 drain tests. The number of new drains provided in connection with dwelling houses was 77 and 4 new drains were provided for other premises. The number of existing drains found to be defective and reconstructed or repaired was 10. It was necessary to make 82 inspections in connection with drainage.

The Council does not undertake the emptying and cleansing of cesspools and septic tanks other than those on the Council's property.

### Rivers and Streams

No action by the Department or by the Council to prevent or abate river pollution was necessary during the year. The absence of trade effluents and the regular collection of domestic refuse have promoted cleanliness of rivers and streams in the Rural District.

### Closet Accommodation

The commonest type of closet in use in the District is the pail closet, and it is estimated that 60% of the inhabitants use this type. A further estimated 10% are still obliged to use privies and it is considered that the remaining 30% have the use of water closets. The reason for the continued wide use of conservancy systems is chiefly the lack of piped water supplies.

During the year 7 privies and 51 pail closets were converted to water closets. In addition, 4 privies were converted to pail closets. Apart from conversions, 23 new water closets were provided during the year.

The Council does not undertake the emptying and cleansing of privies and pail closets other than those on the Council's property. No public conveniences are provided by the Council, but a need of such provision in the Whitchurch area exists. This parish has a significant influx of day visitors during the holiday season.

### Public Cleansing

Throughout the year, a collection of domestic refuse was made in all parts of the District by the Rural District Council. The collection is carried out by a motor vehicle, provided with adjustable covers, and is supervised by the Sanitary Inspector. With a single vehicle it has not been found possible to make collection more frequently than once a month from all accessible houses (about 80% of inhabited houses).

The domestic refuse is tipped on two sites, one situated at Deepdean, Walford parish, and the other at Tre-essey in Llangarron parish. The use of two tips reduces mileage. During the year, the vehicle with its crew of two men travelled 11,000 miles conveying 520 loads. The average mileage per load was 31 miles. The domestic refuse collected has a low organic content being chiefly composed of bottles, tins and other incombustible articles. The risk of spontaneous combustion on the tip is, therefore, low. The condition of the tips was satisfactory throughout the year.

The Council has no duties in connection with street cleaning, and there are no public baths or washhouses within the area. The settlement tanks and filters at the Council's housing sites are cleansed twice yearly by Contractors.

#### Swimming Baths and Pools

There are no swimming baths or pools open to the public within the District.

#### Shops and Offices

The number of shops and offices within the District is small, and no action was taken under the Public Health Act, 1936, in connection with shops. The number of inspections of shops was 81.

#### Camping Sites

The number of sites used for camping in the area during the year was 19; of these 6 were licensed under Section 269 of the Public Health Act 1936. It is estimated that the maximum number of campers resident in the area at any one time was 260.

Fourteen inspections of sites were made, and 45 inspections of caravans were carried out. When sites are inspected attention is given to water supply, sanitary accommodation and refuse disposal.

#### Eradication of Bed Bugs

No dwelling houses were found to be infested with bed bugs, and no disinfection was required.

#### Common Lodging Houses

There are no common lodging houses within the District.

#### Sanitary Inspection of the Area

I am indebted to Mr. G.E. Hardy, Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor, for the following tabular statement for the year 1955, furnished in accordance with Article 27 (sub-section 18) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935.

#### Inspections

Accumulations	...	9
Animals	...	1
Bakehouses	...	23
Camping Sites	...	14
Caravans	...	45
Dairies	...	9
Drainage	...	82
Drain Tests	...	101
Filthy and Verminous Premises	...	5
Factories (without mechanical power)	...	12
Factories (with mechanical power)	...	40
Food Poisoning	...	3
Food Handling Byelaws	...	167
Food Premises	...	108
Houses (Consolidated Regulations 1925) ..		102
Housing (Other)	...	236



Inspections (continued)

Hotel and Restaurant Kitchens	...	47
Ice Cream (Registered Premises)	...	103
Infectious Disease	...	61
Knackers' Yards	...	4
Licensed Victuallers' Premises	...	39
Offensive Smells	...	2
Petroleum Stores	...	15
Schools	...	29
Sewage Disposal Works	...	79
Sewers	...	8
Shops	...	81
Sanitary Conveniences	...	48
Unsound Food	...	5
Water Supply	...	165
Water Courses	...	61
Work Places	...	125

Notices Issued

Informal	...	7
Statutory re housing	...	41
Statutory under other Acts	...	2

Summary of Defects Remedied

Accumulations removed	...	37
Cesspools and septic tanks cleansed	...	109
Ditches cleared	...	4
Domestic Baths provided	...	31
Drains and Gullies cleared	...	18
Drains repaired	...	6
Drains reconstructed	...	4
New drains provided	...	77
Defective floors repaired	...	21
Defective roofs repaired	...	53
Defective eaves gutters repaired	...	24
Defective brickwork repaired	...	17
Defective Coppers remedied	...	6
Disinfections after infectious disease...	...	7
Defective windows repaired	...	30
Defective chimneys repaired	...	11
Dampness of floors and walls remedied	...	27
Cisterns cleansed or repaired	...	15
Closets repaired	...	19
New Gullies provided	...	21
Inspection chambers repairedd	...	3
Old drains sealed	...	14
Paving repaired	...	7
Privies converted to water closets	...	7
Rainwater pipes provided or repaired	...	42
Staircases repaired	...	18
New sinks provided	...	46
Soil pipes repaired	...	5
Sanitary Fittings provided	...	58
Stoves repaired	...	9
Moveable Dwellings Removed	...	4
New Urinals provided	...	1
Urinals repaired	...	2
Ventilation improved	...	31
Wells cleansed or repaired	...	7
Water Supplies provided	...	35
Miscellaneous Defects remedied	...	78

Factories Acts 1937 and 1948

During the year the number of premises registered as factories diminished and there are now 17 factories within the area registered with the Local Authority; 14 of these being factories with mechanical power. One defect was remedied.

Factory Form 572 (revised)

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1955, for the Rural District of Ross and Whitchurch in the County of Hereford.

Part I of Act

1. Inspections made for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises.	Number on Register.	Inspect-ions.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authorities	3	12	Nil	Nil
Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	14	40	Nil	Nil
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	115	345	Nil	Nil
Total	132	397	Nil	Nil

2. Cases in which Defects were found.

	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspec-tor.	By H.M. Inspec-tor.	
Want of cleanliness	-	1	-	-	-

There are no outworkers on the Register.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

The Council employs a part-time Pests Control Officer in conjunction with the Hereford Rural and Ledbury Rural District Councils. His work in this area during 1955 is recorded by the following table:-

	Premises inspected.	Total Infest- ations.	<u>Major Minor</u>		Mice	No. of proper- ties treated.	Stat- utory Notices.
Local Authorities'	6	11	-	11	-	11	-
Properties Dwelling Houses	81	31	-	31	-	-	-
Agricultural Properties	100.	37	-	37	-	-	-
All other (including business) Premises	15	9	-	9	-	-	-
	202	88	-	88	-	11	-

Knackers' Yards

There are two Knackers' yards within the Rural District. Four inspections of these premises were made during the year.

The Council adopted Byelaws made under Section 58 of the Food and Drug Act, 1938 regulating these premises. These byelaws came into operation on 1st August, 1955.

SECTION D - HOUSING

Progress in the erection of new dwellings by the Local Authority continued but somewhat more slowly than in recent years. Thirteen new houses were completed and occupied, whilst a further 10 houses were under construction at the end of the year.

The completed dwellings were situated at Lea (2) and Hentland (11). These houses brought the total number of dwellings provided by the Council to 294.

<u>Parish</u>	<u>Occupied.</u>	<u>Under Construction.</u>
Brampton Abbotts	14	-
Bridstow	42	-
Brockhampton	14	-
Garway	12	-
Hentland	24	-
How Caple	4	-
Kings Caple	8	-
Lea	40	10
Linton	6	-
Llangarron	26	-
Llanwarne	12	-
Marstow	8	-



<u>Parish</u>	<u>Occupied</u>	<u>Under Construction</u>
Brought Forward	210	10
Peterstow	3	-
Ross Rural	2	-
Upton Bishop	4	-
Walford	52	-
Welsh Newton	1	-
Weston-under-Penyard	4	-
Whitchurch	14	-
Yatton	4	-
	<u>294</u>	<u>10</u>

In addition to dwellings completed by the Council, private persons completed 10 dwellings, and 10 houses were under construction by private persons at the end of the year.

#### Housing Act 1936 Part IV. Overcrowding

A small but significant improvement in overcrowding was achieved during the year. At the beginning of the year 14 houses were known to be overcrowded. Six cases were relieved during the year. No new cases came to the notice of the Department during the year and at the end of the year only eight dwellings were overcrowded.

#### Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year

- |   |     |     |
|---|-----|-----|
| 1. Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)  | ... | 451 |
| 2. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.                                  | ... | 2   |
| 3. Number of dwelling houses exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. | ... | 164 |
| 4. Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers.                               | ... | 60  |

#### Houses demolished or closed during the Year

- |  |     |     |
|--|-----|-----|
| 1. Housing Act 1936  |     |     |
| (a) Demolished as a result of informal procedure (Section 11)                                  | ... | 3   |
| (b) Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 11 and still in force. | ... | 2   |
| (c) Parts of building closed (Section 12)  | ... | Nil |
| 2. Housing Act 1949  |     |     |
| Closed as a result of closing orders under Section 3(1) and 3(2)                               | ... | Nil |
| 3. Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953                                       |     |     |
| Closed as a result of closing orders under Section 10(1) and 11(2)                             | ... | Nil |

Houses repaired during the Year

1.	Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the year as a result of informal action by the Local Authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts	...	40
2.	Public Health Acts - action after service of formal notice: Houses in which defects were remedied		
	(a) By Owners	...	Nil
	(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	...	Nil
3.	Housing Act 1936 - action after service of formal notice (Sections 9,10,11 and 16): Houses made fit		
	(a) By Owners	...	2
	(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	...	Nil
4.	Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954. Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved and Demolition Orders revoked (Section 5)	...	59

SECTION E - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODMilk

The number of milk distributors registered with the Council at the end of the year was thirteen. The number of dairy inspections made was nine.

There are no milk pasteurising, sterilising or processing plants situated within the Rural District. Seven distributors' licences for the sale of tuberculin tested Milk, four for the sale of tuberculin tested (Pasteurized) Milk and one licence for the sale of pasteurized milk were granted by the Council during the year.

Seventeen samples of milk were sent for biological examination for tuberculosis and Br. abortus infection, and 36 samples were sent for methylene blue test. All samples submitted for biological test were found to be satisfactory except one which was infected with Br. abortus. A Notice under Article 20 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949 was served on the dairyman requiring all milk to be pasteurised before being sold for human consumption, and the milch herd was investigated. As a result, it was found that one of the cows was infected, and the owner agreed to its removal from the milch herd.

Of the 36 samples of T.T. milk submitted for methylene blue test, 13 failed to comply with the requirements of the test, but of 29 samples of pasteurized milk submitted only one failed to satisfy the required standard.



### Ice Cream

The number of premises registered with the Local Authority for the manufacture of Ice Cream was 2, and the number registered for the storage and sale was 34. The number of inspections made of registered premises was 103. Conditions of storage and sale were satisfactory. There is no manufacture of heat treated ice cream carried out in the Rural District - both manufacturers use a cold mix. The number of retailers of this food continues to increase.

The number of samples of this food submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination during the year was 62. Fortyfive of these were classified as provisional grade 1, ten as provisional grade 2 and seven were classified as provisional grades 3 and 4. This shows some improvement on the results of previous years. There was no reason to suspect this food of causing acute disease in the population.

### Water Cress

This food grows under natural conditions in a number of places in the District. There are no commercial beds within the area and the sale of water cress during the year is small. No illness was attributed to the consumption of infected water cress.

### Shell Fish

The sale of shell fish appears to be small, and no case of illness was attributed to consumption of this food. There are no fishmongers in the Rural District; supplies being obtained from adjacent towns.

### Meat

There are no slaughterhouses in use within the area. All meat is obtained by traders from abattoirs of adjacent Districts.

During the year the Council issued 7 licences to slaughtermen under Section 3 of the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933.

<u>Carcases inspected and condemned</u>						
	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number inspected.	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticerosis</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

There are six bakeries, one factory for preserved meat, and one factory for the manufacture of soft drinks registered with the Council under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act 1936. The number of inspections of registered premises during the year was 103.

Unsound Food

The following food was found to be unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered:-

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Food</u>	<u>Cause of unsoundness</u>
1 x 29 oz. tin	Apricots	Blown tin
1 x 15 $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. tin	Bacon	Mould
1 x 8 oz. tin	Baked Beans	Blown tin
1 x 6 $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. tin	Black Currants	" "
2 x 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ pint tins	Condensed Milk	Damaged tins
1 x $\frac{3}{4}$ pint tin	" "	Burst tin
1 x 14 lb. tin	Ham	Decomposition
2 x 20 oz. tins	Peas	Blown tins
2 x 15 oz. tins	Peaches	" "
1 x 20 oz. tin	Pineapple	" tin
2 x 20 oz. tins	Plums	" tins
3 x 20 oz. tins	Prunes	" "
1 x 2 lb. tin	Tomatoes	" tin

Food found to be unfit for human consumption is buried on the refuse tips under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

Byelaws as to the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food, and Sale of Food in Open Air

There are no markets held within the Rural District, and the sale of food from stalls is very limited. Since the adoption of the byelaws more attention has been given to vendors' delivery vans and vehicles. During the year 147 inspections were made under the byelaws.

Food Poisoning

There were five cases of food poisoning notified during the year, all occurred in one household at the same time and were caused by *Salmonella typhi murium* infection. Careful investigation was made and it seemed that the infection was probably caused by contamination by rodents.

Anthrax Order 1938

No notifications of Anthrax occurring in animals were received during the year.



SECTION F - PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE

On comparison with the previous year, there was a small increase in the incidence of acute notifiable disease; 95 notifications being received. The notification rate was 8.01 per 1000 estimated population. The Rural District was entirely free from diphtheria, meningococcal infection and enteric fevers throughout the year.

The second and fourth quarters were the periods showing the greatest incidence of notifiable disease.

Confirmed Cases of Infectious Disease in each Quarter

Disease.	1st. Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	Year.
Scarlet Fever	-	2	-	-	2
Whooping Cough	4	4	6	5	19
Measles	-	37	7	19	63
Dysentery	1	-	-	-	1
Pneumonia	3	-	2	-	5
Acute Poliomyelitis (non-paralytic)	-	-	1	-	1
Erysipelas	1	2	-	1	4
All Diseases	9	45	16	25	95

Measles

There were altogether 63 cases of measles notified during the year and the morbidity rate was 5.3 per 1000 estimated population. The incidence was slightly heavier in males (35 cases), and 56 of the patients were children under 10 years of age; the age group giving the maximum number of notifications was the 5 - 9 years group. In 1954, 29 notifications of the disease were received.

The number of households affected was 44; one dwelling gave rise to five notifications, three others produced three notifications each and 18 families each gave rise to two notifications.

The increased prevalence of measles occurred mostly in the second and fourth quarters, with a few cases during the intervening period. The initial wave of incidence was greater than that occurring during the final quarter and was almost confined to the parishes of Garway (24), Llangarron (13) and St. Weonards (7). The first notification in Garway was received on the 5th May; the disease rapidly spread through that parish and then into the adjoining parishes. Thereafter, sporadic cases occurred until the final quarter when Brockhampton parish gave 4 notifications. There were no deaths attributed to measles.

Whooping Cough

The incidence of whooping cough was second to that of measles and it showed a small reduction, 19 cases compared with 24 for the previous year. The incidence rate was 1.6 per 1000 estimated population. The disease was not confined to any particular period of the year but 9 notifications were in respect of persons resident in Upton Bishop parish, and were received during the months of June, July and August. The number of females affected was 12, and all patients except one were under 10 years of age.

Pneumonia

Five notifications of pneumonia were received giving a rate of 0.36 notifications per 1000 population.

Other Diseases

During the year, four notifications of erysipelas were received. In addition two cases of scarlet fever were notified, and one case of sonné dysentery and one case of non-paralytic poliomyelitis.

Analysis of notified cases according to certain  
Age Groups.

Disease	0+	1+	2+	3+	4+	5+	10+	15+	25+	45+	65+	Total
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
Whooping Cough	2	5	2	2	2	5	-	-	-	-	1	19
Measles	2	4	7	5	7	31	5	-	2	-	-	63
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	2	5
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	4
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
All Diseases	4	9	9	8	10	38	5	2	4	1	4	95

Tuberculosis

At the beginning of the year there were 96 cases of tuberculosis on the register (70 respiratory and 26 non-respiratory). During the year 13 cases were added (12 respiratory and 1 non-respiratory); of these 9 were new cases (8 respiratory and one non-respiratory). The number of cases removed from the Register during the year was 15 (12 respiratory and 3 non-respiratory). At the end of the year, therefore, 94 cases remained on the Register (70 respiratory and 24 non-respiratory). There were three deaths attributed to respiratory disease, giving a corrected death rate from tuberculosis of 0.20 per 1000 population. Two respiratory case and three non-respiratory cases were regarded as having recovered.

Tuberculosis  
New Cases and Mortality during 1955

Age Groups.	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5+	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
15+	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25+	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
35+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45+	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
55+	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65+	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Totals	5	2	1	-	1	2	-	-

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